



Raider Review



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U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Clearing the way...

Sgt. Michael McDougal (left) and Spc. Tony Kirk (middle), both infantrymen assigned to HHD, 1BCT, 4th Inf. Div., clear a bridge northwest of Baghdad, July 2. Both Soldiers are members of the brigade personal security detachment.

9th IA Div. 'In the Lead' in northern Baghdad region

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner
Staff Writer

In a show of continued confidence in the skills of its Iraqi counterparts, Multi-

National Division – Baghdad transferred authority for a major portion of the northern Baghdad region to the 9th Iraqi Army Division during an “Iraqis in the Lead” ceremony at Camp Taji, June 19.

Maj. Gen. J.D.

Thurman, the commanding general of MND-B, spoke about the preparedness and skills of the 9th IA Div. before transferring responsibility for an area consisting of more than 615 square kilometers to Maj. Gen. Mahmoud Bashar, the (go to page 14, ceremony)

My ten reasons for staying 'In'

By Col. James Pasquarette
Commander, 1st BCT

Soldiers of the Raider Brigade: it's July! Time continues to fly by for me.

Back in 2001, I wrote an article that was published in Armor Magazine. It was an appeal to junior captains to consider making the U.S. Army a career. At the time, there was a small spike in captains getting out of the Army. This was before 9/11 – the Army was rotating to Bosnia / Kosovo on six month rotations quite a bit. Back then, that was considered tough duty. When asked why they were leaving the Army, many captains stated they were tired of deploying to the Balkans. I wonder what those captains would think today. The article I wrote offered ten reasons



why junior officers should consider staying in the Army.

What follows is along the same lines as the article for Armor Magazine. This is my personal appeal to those great Soldiers in the brigade guarding the DHAA, pulling shifts in guard towers in 110 degrees, walking a patrol through a tough town in body armor, or doing any of the hundreds of other tasks here in Iraq. I'd like you to consider what is good about our Army – and consider staying in the Army. We take many things for granted. It's easy to focus on the negatives: the separations from loved ones; the long hours; extreme weather, etc. I'd like to review some things you may be taking for granted.

First, the pay is good. Sit down sometime and figure out how much you spend on rent, food, etc. An Army salary will address all your needs but perhaps not all your wants. If making lots of money is a priority in life, then you're in the wrong profession. The Army is not going to make you a millionaire, but as I've matured over the years I've found how much you make is much less important than how you make it. In addition to the money,

everyone gets 30 days of paid leave a year. You'll get 15 of those while here in Iraq through the EML program, if you arrived in theater previous to Jan. 31. I promise to work the leave we all deserve when we get to Fort Hood.

Second, the quality of life for your family is outstanding. The Army has poured billions of dollars into family housing, schools, gyms, education centers, PXs, youth centers and other facilities over the last ten years. Fort Hood, in particular, has had a complete makeover since I first reported for duty there in 1988.

Third, there is no better institution in the world than the U.S. Army at preparing it's "employees" to succeed. There are leadership and specialty schools for Soldiers as they progress through the ranks. Additionally, there are countless opportunities to personally improve your educational standing. I realize here in Iraq these opportunities aren't in play. When we get back to Fort Hood, I am making it a priority.

Fourth, the quality of people that are in the United States Army is second to none. I've seen it improve (go to page 5, U.S. Army)

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To contribute to the *Raider Review* contact the 1st BCT Public Affairs Office or send stories, photos and information to brent.hunt@BCT1ID4.army.mil.

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History of the 4th ID unit insignia

By Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Wells
Command Sergeant Major, 1st BCT

You're authorized to wear this patch for the rest of your life. It's only fitting

you should know

the history and the changes this patch has gone through the last 80 plus years. The shoulder sleeve insignia was originally approved on Oct. 30, 1918 for the 4th

Division without any background specified for the ivy leaf design. So the design was embroidered on a square olive background the same color and material as the uniform. The four leaves hint to the numerical designation of the division while the word "IVY" as pronounced, suggests the characters used in the Roman numeral "IV." Ivy leaves are also symbolic of fidelity and tenacity.

The patch took on an additional design immediately after WW I. The Third Army symbol was placed within the interior design's circle to represent the 4th Infantry Division's participation as Third Army's Occupational Forces.

The SSI was further modified during the Inter-War period between WW I and WW II. The interior design remained the same, minus the Third Army symbol, but was placed on a round, olive background. This

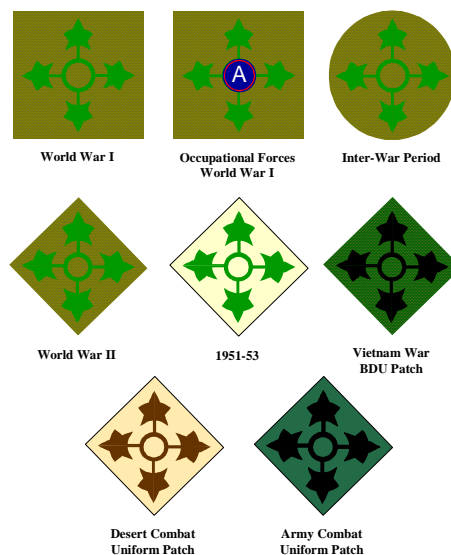


patch may also have been used as a "pocket patch", to be worn on the breast pocket.

The 4th ID patch changed again during WW II. The patch continued to keep its interior design but was placed on an olive, 2" square background with one angle up. Another 4 ID patch with a large, square background was issued to Soldiers, who folded in the corners to give it the "one angle up" look. To help stimulate the German economy after WW II, the Army employed German embroiderers to make the 4th Infantry Division's patches. The design remained the same but had a similar stitching to WW II German patches. The Germans also made 4th ID patches using bullion (wire thread) to outline the ivy leaves and added a narrow, silver border to the olive background.

On July 2, 1958, the design was changed to reflect the light khaki color background to be worn on all classes of uniforms. An additional, subdued patch was created during the Vietnam War. The 4th ID patch was changed to an olive drab background and the interior design's color was changed to black. This patch was to be worn with the utility uniform and the jungle fatigues while the light khaki background patch was retained for wear with the Class "A" uniform. Because of the fast wear out time of the jungle fatigues, and the fatigues

Evolution of the 4th Infantry Division Patch



being the same color as the patch's background, an "iron on" patch was used by troops of the 4th. The iron-on patch consisted of the interior design and the square border in black.

The present day patch has four configurations. The light khaki colored background for Class "A" wear, the olive drab background for wear with the Battle Dress Uniform or Army Combat Uniform, the sand colored background for wear with the Desert Combat Uniform and the new, ACU green background for wear with the ACU.

Throughout all the design changes that have taken place in the last 88 years, the Soldiers that have served with the "Fighting Fourth" have never let its reputation diminish. Be proud of your service in the IV Division.

There is no greater sacrifice...

Pfc. Devon J. Gibbons

Jan. 3, 1987 - June 23, 2006

7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt.

Sgt. 1st Class Terry O. Wallace

Aug. 15, 1972 - June 27, 2006

HQB, 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt.

Raider Brigade Chaplain's Corner:

Enjoying the results of life's challenges

By Chaplain (Capt.) Charles Banks
1st Bn., 66th AR

We can rejoice when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us—they help us learn perseverance. And perseverance develops proven character in us, and character produces hope, and [this] hope does not disappoint us. (Romans 5:3-5)

Within every difficulty in life lies the opportunity to develop latent human potential. The trials we face may not be good – bad things do happen in life. But if we embrace them as character building opportunities, we will actually benefit from them.

Difficulties help us learn perseverance. Perseverance carries the idea of endurance or the ability to continue working in the face of strong opposition.

President Calvin Coolidge said: *Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan “press on” has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.*

Perseverance is the path to

developing proven character. We never know what we are truly capable of until we are tested by difficulty. The word for “proven character” was the term used in ancient times for the testing of perseverance.

Life’s challenges test our inner strength and give the opportunity to become a stronger people. Someone has said that *a talent may be formed in the still waters of life, but a proven character only in the world’s torrents.*

Difficulty produces perseverance, perseverance produces a proven character, and **proven character produces hope.** There are no hopeless situations in life; there are only people who have grown hopeless about their situations.

The more difficulties in life we persevere and embrace as character building opportunities, the more confidence we gain that there is nothing life can throw at us we cannot handle.

Therefore, **this kind of hope does not disappoint.** We can hope that circumstances were not as they were, but that doesn’t change them. That is the “wishful thinking” kind of hope, and if we live life with that perspective, we will be disappointed.

However, although we cannot change our circumstances, we can change ourselves for the better in the midst of our circumstances – that hope will never disappoint us. Although we do not choose our trials, we do choose our response. We can choose to rejoice in the challenges of

Camp Taji's Warrior Chapel church services

Saturdays

Seventh-Day Adventist - 10:30 a.m.

Sundays

Liturgical Protestant - 8:30 a.m.

Catholic Mass - 10 a.m.

Traditional Protestant - 11:30 a.m.

Latter-Day Saints - 2 p.m.

Contemporary Protestant - 6 p.m.

life not because of what happens to us, but because of the good that can come of it.

When we choose to engage our difficulties in that way, we will gain a better understanding of the human condition, we will be more equipped to help others through similar challenges of life, and we will find that we will have achieved one of the greatest goals in life. Horace Greely wrote. *Fame is a vapor, popularity an accident. Riches take wings. Only one thing endures, character.*

Let us embrace life's challenges with courage and confidence so that we can enjoy the process of becoming all that God intends us to be.



U.S. Army: A value based organization

—(continued from page 2)

over the years. You and your buddies have made a heartrending decision to join the military. It takes a certain type of person to do this – someone who possesses intangible qualities that separates you from your peers “back on the block.”

Fifth, the Army is a value based organization. Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage fall off the tongue pretty easily in many professions... but we live it every day. Life in the real world values the bottom line. The longer I’m in the Army, the more I’ve come to look to our values as a guide. Those that apply our values in what they do invariably succeed.

Sixth, the Army cares about you and your family. The Family Readiness Program is the product of OPERATION DESERT SHIELD / STORM when families were left behind without a plan to care for them. Today’s FRG volunteers are heroes in every sense of the word. When a Soldier has a personal crisis, the chain of command is committed to dealing with it for the Soldier’s benefit. Think about it for a minute – do you really think there will be

that level of commitment in a job outside the Army?

Seventh, the Army needs you. You have accumulated an incredible experience. We are at war – and need your experience in the Army... whether this is here in Iraq, at Fort Hood, or another post. You probably don’t realize the amount of experience and value you have to the Army – but I do.

Eighth, the Army is cool. Where else in the world do you get paid to go four-wheeling with automatic weapons? You have the respect of the entire world simply by the fact that you wear a uniform that has “U.S. Army” on it. The U.S. military remains the most respected institution in the United States. It ranks above Congress, the media, Hollywood and other more “glamorous” professions. A quick story about my oldest son is undeniable evidence that the Army is cool. Jay (now 15 – and probably in need of a haircut) went to fourth grade at a Catholic school in a ritzy part of Atlanta while I was assigned to FORSCOM. Jay’s classmates were the sons and daughters of the well to do in Atlanta – doctors and lawyers with summer houses in New England, beach houses at Jekyll

Island, etc. Jay went to a friend’s house one day after school to play. It was a mansion in Buckhead. The mother of Jay’s friend overhead the two boys have the following conversation while playing.

Friend: “What does your dad do?”

Jay: “He’s in the Army. What does your dad do?”

Friend – after a short delay to compose an answer, (whose dad was a doctor or lawyer) “He’s a policeman – and he has a gun!”

Kids know the real deal – there is no denying being a Soldier is cool. If you stay in the Army, your kids won’t have to make-up a story!

Ninth, if you stay in the Army you’ll continue to have the good feeling you are part of an altruistic endeavor. To me, it’s easy to get up in the morning when I know I’m able to serve our nation at war. I admit to having seen things here in Iraq that I never want my children to see. But I do believe what we are doing over here will prevent them from having to see such things. There are about 300 million people in the U.S. – and only about 500,000 in the U.S. Army. This means only about .002 percent of the population are an active duty Soldier.

In other words, 99.8 percent of the population of the United States is relying on us to succeed.

Finally, the tenth reason to consider staying in the Army is because I said so! Trust me – I wouldn’t steer you wrong. My wife and I are encouraging our sons to consider enlisting when they graduate from high school. I’m guessing Jay will do so – given his proclivity to weigh heavily how “cool” something is. Drew will be a great Soldier – he’ll get stuck with the SAW because he’s going to be big. Luke is too little to tell yet (he’s only three), but he already seems pretty bossy so he may be officer material. I can’t think of anything that would make me more proud than seeing my sons in a U.S. Army uniform.

So there you have it. I’m more than willing to talk to any of you about this. I’ve reenlisted a good bit of Soldiers over here – and would be honored to reenlist you if you desire.

OK – that’s it. Thanks again for what you are doing here serving in the Raider Brigade. You may not know it, but you’re definitely cool in my book.

Colonel Jim Pasquarette
Raider 6

Raiders renew IED training in Iraq

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner
Staff Writer

Training continues on Camp Taji as Soldiers conduct validation lane training to become more adept at emergency combat situations during an improvised explosive device attack.

Each battalion in the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, selects certain units to conduct the training that addresses situations and events that may not take place in one unit's particular area of operation.

"Not every battalion goes everywhere," said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Wells, command sergeant major, 1st BCT. "During this training, a unit will see something that doesn't happen in their AO. One Soldier might see something in their AO everyday that another Soldier doesn't see in theirs at all."

Each battalion sends certain units to conduct a patrol mission over a four-mile course that lasts five to six hours. After performing a daylight mission, the units then conduct night operations.

The units are given scenarios where they encounter IEDs and other patrol scenarios and then must perform emergency procedures in response.

Observer Controllers plan the missions, watch, and note how well the units conduct their emergency response operations and give them feedback to correct possible problems.

"We select OCs from units with



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

An artillery simulator detonated next to a Bradley Fighting Vehicle from Co. A, 1st Bn., 66th AR, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., simulating a roadside bomb during validation lane training conducted by the 1st BCT. The units go through training based on scenarios they don't normally see in their area of operations, to better prepare them against roadside bombs.

experience in the particular AO," Wells said. "The process begins with troop leaders going over procedures to include detainee handling, site exploitation and the dissemination of information."

Sgt. Roma Peace, a medic with Company C, 4th Support Battalion, was an OC who watched the medical procedures Soldiers performed after being informed by the OCs as to what damage or injuries they received.

"I oversee the medical portion of the lane. They get hit by an IED and I walk over and point out casualties," said Peace. "The main thing is we want to see how they execute: how they conduct proper casualty treatment, proper transfer of casualties and the set up of the landing zone along with their nine-line medevac (medical evacuation) procedures."

Peace observed several patrol missions already on the lanes and noted the Soldiers do perform the same actions in different ways.

"Everyone is different," he said. "There are many ways to do certain tasks, but we make sure that they do things according to the Army standard. That's the goal."

To add to the sense of realism, grenade simulators and blasting caps are used to replicate IEDs on the course, delivering a touch of intensity to the course.

"I was surprised by the IED," said Spc. Joshua Caban, cannon crewmember, Btry. A, 4th Bn., 42nd Field Artillery Regiment. "I never got hit before. The flash and noise dazes you. For a second, you don't even know what to do, but then the training kicks in. I received shrapnel wound to (go to page 10, roadside)"

Camp Taji holds grand opening of \$2.1 million, four bay fire station

By Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt
Editor, Raider Review

After almost a year of hard work and dedication in the harsh climate of Iraq, the grand opening of a new Camp Taji Fire Station was held June 10 on Camp Taji.

The new \$2.1 million four bay fire station is a significant improvement over the old fire station because of its location and capabilities.

“This location was specifically picked, because of the close proximity to the airfield,” said Lt. Col. Jeffery Toomer, mayor of Camp Taji. “We used to park a fire truck on the airfield and the crew slept in the truck, but now they can stay at the firehouse and dispatch to the airfield quickly in case of an emergency. This fire station was specifically built for our safety on the FOB (Forward Operating Base).”



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Firefighters from Camp Taji display the fire equipment they have on their engines at the grand opening of the Camp Taji Fire Station, June 10. By placing the fire station directly across from the flight line, firefighters can now respond to an airfield emergency in one minute instead of three.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Soldiers and civilians from Camp Taji participate in the time honored engine push at the Camp Taji Fire Station Grand Opening, June 10. The new fire station was built directly across from the flight line for a better response time in case of an emergency on the flight line and has the capacity to hold 18,000 gallons of water and 4,800 gallons of foam.

The new fire station is located directly across from the Camp Taji Airfield. With its new location, response time to an airfield emergency is reduced from three minutes to one. In addition, the fire station can now respond to a good portion of the downtown Taji area.

Also, it allows the storage of fire fighting apparatus in an environmentally controlled setting, keeping items such as foam, used in chemical and electrical fires, under the 120 degree breakdown temperature. The station also has the capacity to hold 18,000 gallons of water and 4,800 gallons of foam compared to the 6,000 gallons of water and 1,800 gallons of foam the old station used to hold.

“This has been a long journey to

get this thing together,” said Randy Meyer, fire chief for the Camp Taji Fire Department. “This location provides state of the art equipment for flight line protection here on Camp Taji. Also, this facility was built completely accident free which says a lot about how well it was put together.”

For the firefighter, the new station comes equipped with a large training/community room, sleeping quarters for up to 20 firefighters, a game room for down time, a large kitchen and TV room. It is a serious morale builder for the firefighters.

“This is a great accomplishment,” Toomer added. “This structure is just a building, but it’s a representation of the hard work and dedication of the Taji Fire Department.”

Soldier makes chopper-style bike out of scraps found on Taji

By Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt
Editor, Raider Review

As Soldiers on Camp Taji, Iraq, move about their day in their Humvees, bicycles or just walking from one place to another, one Soldier from Fort Hood, Texas, truly stands out among the rest as he moves from one place to another.

Spc. Keith Jennings, a welder with Company B, 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, gets a lot of double-takes from Soldiers on the camp north of Baghdad as he rides around on his custom made bicycle.

"I like to be creative and it [the bike] was something different," Jennings said. "I like seeing peoples' heads turn while we are in this stressful situation."

Jennings, originally from Tazewell County, Va., built a custom chopper-style bicycle made from materials he found around the camp. The tires and brakes were taken off a previous bike he owned and the frame is made of half-inch thick chain. He arc welded each link of the chain eight times, threw on a coat of bronze paint and covered the seat with a red, velvet rag he found in a rag box.

The brakes, which were just recently added on, are on the pedals with the right foot engaging the rear brake and the left foot engaging the front. The pedals are custom made



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Spc. Keith Jennings, welder with Co. B, 4th Spt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., sports a chopper-style bicycle he made with scraps he found around Camp Taji.

just for him, so there is enough clearance between his foot and the rocky roads of Iraq.

"At first I was kind of baffled at what he was doing, because I didn't know what he was going to do with it [the materials to make the bicycle]," said Sgt. Brian Kilough, the senior welder with the Service and Recovery Section, Co. B, 4th Spt. Bn., and Jennings first line supervisor. "When he started making it, I was shocked and I wasn't really sure what it was going to look like when he was done. Now it looks real good and it gave me lot of ideas for another bike which I would like to make, but I doubt I'll ever have the time to build one of my own."

The bike took about a week to build while Jennings used his lunch time and after duty hours to complete the project. This is the third chopper-

style bike he has made, but this is the first one he has made of metal.

"This is definitely the heaviest bike I've ever made," Jennings said who is currently serving his second tour in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. "This bike has made it easier to get around camp, and I have a quicker response time if I need to be somewhere fast. It's great for PT [physical training]."

"Someone stops me at least once a day and asks me about it and a lot of people take a picture of it," Jennings added. "When it comes time to leave here, I'm going to chop it in half and send it home. Then I'm going to put it back together, fix it up real nice and I plan to dip it in chrome. Also, I'm probably going to have to make some of these for my three children, because they love this kind of stuff."

When the AC breaks down, call the Ground Support Equipment Section

By Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt
Editor, Raider Review

With temperatures soaring under an unforgiving Iraqi sky, Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, are constantly looking for a little relief from the scorching sun of Camp Taji.

That's where the Ground Support Equipment Section of Company B, 4th Support Battalion, come in. They are the guys who fix air conditioners.

"We support mainly the 4th Support Battalion, but STB [1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st BCT] and 1-66 [1st Bn., 66th Armor Regiment, 1st BCT] don't have any AC guys, so they depend on us too," said Staff Sgt. Jeff Tremusini, non-commissioned officer in charge of the section. "For a while, we were getting a lot of business because when it starting getting hot people realized they needed to get their ACs fixed quickly. But now, it's tapered down to a couple of repairs a day."

With the first day of summer only a few days in the rear view mirror, Soldiers of the brigade have many days of blistering heat to look forward to and contend with.

In addition, the up-armored Humvees that troops take off the camp are not equipped with roll down windows due to the threat of snipers and roadside bombs. So, mix in the heat outside, a broken down



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Staff Sgt. Jeff Tremusini (left), NCOIC of the Ground Support Equipment Section, Co. B, 4th Spt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., helps Spc. Kevin Mateika, air conditioner and heating repairman, also with the section, troubleshoot a Humvee AC control box on Camp Taji, June 23. These are the guys you have to thank for your air conditioned vehicle.

AC in an enclosed vehicle and Soldiers wearing all their protective gear; some may feel like a Thanksgiving turkey roasting inside an oven all day.

"The MPs [Military Police] love us," said Pfc. John Dydasco, quartermaster and chemical repair who hails from San Diego, Calif. "The best part of my job is working on the AC lines, because it's fun. For one, it's a job I can do myself and number two I have the satisfaction of knowing I fixed that truck. I worked on a few ACs before I got in the Army, but now I can fix any AC thanks to the Army training me."

The biggest problem the section

sees with vehicle ACs are the compressors, belts and lines. The heat of the day causes pressure to build up in the lines which causes the AC compressor to blow. Also, rubber, which many parts are made of, doesn't do well for very long in prolonged periods of extreme heat.

"Nobody really thinks about their ACs until theirs go out, because if it's 100 degrees outside, it's 120 degrees inside and with all that stuff on [personnel protective equipment] its worse," said Spc. Kevin Mateika, AC and heating repairman, who is from Peru, Ill. "I'm not saying I'm saving lives, but I'm definitely making their lives better."

Mad Dawgs change command

By Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt
Editor, Raider Review

Company B, 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, conducted a Change of Command Ceremony on Camp Taji, June 14.

Capt. Hayden Joseph relinquished command of Co. B, the Mad Dawgs, to Capt. Christopher Camphor at the evening ceremony.

"We gather to recognize Captain Joseph's accomplishments," said Lt. Col. Michael Snow, commander, 4th Spt. Bn. "The first thing I noticed was his smile and enthusiastic attitude. He has made this company the best maintenance company in the Army. Hayden, I hate to see you go, but by saying goodbye to Captain Joseph, we say hello to a new chapter in the history of this company."



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Lt. Col. Michael Snow, commander, 4th Spt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., hands the guidon and command to Capt. Christopher Camphor at a Co. B, 4th Spt. Bn. change of command ceremony held on Camp Taji, June 14. This is Camphor's first command.

Camphor, a native of Oklahoma City, Okla., was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps following graduation from Tuskegee University in 2000. He held a variety of positions throughout his military career from maintenance platoon leader for 1st Bn., 67th Spt. Co., 204th Forward Spt. Bn., to the

tactical command post logistics operations officer for the 4th Inf. Div. "When I got here eight days ago, I didn't know how this was going to turn out," Camphor said. "We had a lot of equipment to inventory, but we got it done in eight days. I don't believe we've scratched the surface yet of what we are capable of."

Roadside bombs biggest U.S. threat

—(continued from page 6) the neck and the medic moved me before he started to treat me. He did a good job."

After the daylight portion of the mission, there is a break where the OCs gives the units feedback.

"It went pretty good. As an OC, we controlled what IEDs happen when and where, then where I want them to conduct a

medevac," said Sgt. 1st Class Rene Cano, OC, Co. D, 1st Bn., 66th Armor Regt. "Each area sees different things, so the units see things they weren't accustomed to. I think it's helping Soldiers a lot; they are identifying problems based on things they haven't seen before."

The training lanes will continue until all of the battalions in the brigade receive the training.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Soldiers from Co. A, 1st Bn., 66th AR, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., secure their position after a simulated improvised explosive device attack on the validation lanes conducted on Camp Taji.

Alpha, 4-42 at Abu Ghraib augmenting 1-22

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner
Staff Writer

The 4th Infantry Division continues to adjust fire as they move units around the area of responsibility to continue missions and support the transition to independent Iraqi sovereignty. Members of Battery A, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat, 4th Inf. Div., moved down to Baghdad to reinforce and secure Abu Ghraib Internment Facility along with 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st BCT, June 20.

"We received word three weeks ago," said Capt. Juan Santiago, commander, Btry. A, 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt. "We were informed by the

4-42 commander that we would reinforce 1-22 until all prisoners are safely moved out and the prison is turned over to the Ministry of Justice."

The majority of the Soldiers in the battalion flew down to the Abu Ghraib Internment Facility on CH-47 Chinook helicopters with 12 personnel conveying down to Baghdad. They will be living on the grounds of the 1.5 square kilometer facility.

In preparation, Btry. A went through different classes to readjust to the new environment they will be encountering. Their current mission of providing defense to Camp Taji also helped prepare them for the change.

"We've had a bit of on the job training manning towers at Gunner Gate and classes on detainee handling and core values," said Santiago. "Part

of a platoon will remain to continue to patrol the routes around Camp Taji." Despite the change for the battery, 1st Sgt. Ervin Woodard, Btry. A, 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt., says his Soldiers are looking forward to the challenge.

"I think they are going to do a real good job," he said. "I'm excited. It's going to be something different for the Aztecs. I'm sure they'll maintain their discipline and professionalism." The Soldiers know their role will be an important one for their unit in the eyes of the rest of the world.

"When I briefed them, we had a chat," said Woodard. "They are representing 4-42, the Aztec Battery and the rest of the Soldiers in the Army. This is a key facility known throughout the world and they are going to be a part of history. We owe it to the American people to go down there and do the right thing."

Echo Company, Iraqis secure Tarmiya

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner
Staff Writer

Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, continue to support and work closely with the Iraqi army as they provide a safe and secure environment in the Tarmiya region, June 30.

At the Tarmiya Patrol

Base, Soldiers from Company E, 1st Bn., 66th AR work in the same building along side the 1st Mechanized Brigade, 9th IA Div. and their Military Transition Team to provide protection and security to the Iraqi citizens in the area. "We are based out here to assist the 2nd (Mech.) Battalion, 1/9 IA in joint dismounted operations and manning the entry control points," said 1st Lt. Chris Mowry, executive officer of Co. E. "We help execute missions that the Iraqi army conducts. The battalion



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Pfc. Chris Mazerolle, combat engineer, Co. E, 1st Bn., 66th AR, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., stands in the gunner seat at a patrol base in Tarmiya, June 30. The device next to him is a long range advanced scouting surveillance site used to assist in viewing of targets.

commander will come across the hall and ask for

vehicles and personnel to
(go to page 12, Tarmiya)

Tarmiya relatively quiet Iraqi city to patrol

(continued from page 11)

support the Iraqi army and basic structure operations.”

MND-B Soldiers work at the base for 48 hours before rotating back to Camp Taji for two days.

While in Tarmiya, Soldiers begin the day with patrols and manning entry control points before swapping out periodically with their Iraqi counterparts and then debriefing their chain of command about the days events, said Staff Sgt. Kevin Easter, squad leader with the mounted squad of Co. E, 1st Bn., 66th AR.

The company recently took over for Co. A, but this is not the first time at this location for them.

“We put the patrol base up,” said Staff Sgt. Howard Moffet, platoon sergeant, Co. E. “When we came back they [Co. A] took us around and showed us the new stuff in the



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Spc. Dustin Rosinki, combat engineer, Co. E, 1st Bn., 66th AR, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., (left) carries a battery with Spc. Jason Decker, mechanic, Co. F, 1st Bn., 66th AR, towards a refrigerated storage container in need of repairs on the Tarmiya Patrol Base, June 30.

area like the air conditioning units and the new Qada building. We provide security for civil affairs by clearing the buildings and securing the compound before they come in.”

Moffet noticed that the mission in Tarmiya thus far is a quiet one.

“We got here two weeks ago and things have been quiet,” he said. “We haven’t had any problems so far. I go to the gate with an interpreter to talk to the locals about things like power concerns, medical issues. This is low-intensity compared to Husseniya.”

The MiTT team rotates personnel every four days and provides support to the Iraqi army.

“We help the Iraqis pass info to Company E and assist them with whatever they need,” said Spc. Edward Hoglund, advisor, 2nd Mech. Bn., 1st Mech. Bde., 9th IA Div. “Recently, I went out with them to resolve some curfew violation issues. These guys are friendly and are more motivated now.”

The 1st Bn., 66th AR will continue to support Iraqi army missions in Tarmiya and across the Taji region as the 1st BCT marks more than six months deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Daniel Cima

Operation Gratitude... From left, Spc. Victor Gomez, Spc. David Moreno, Pfc. Charles Lamar, Pfc. Deshon Brown and Pfc. Timothy Tait all from the 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., pose with their care packages they received from volunteers back in the states recently.

Scenes around the Raider Brigade



U.S. Navy photo by PM 1st Class Michael Larson

Soldiers from 1st Bn., 66th AR, train on how to evacuate injured personnel after being hit by a simulated improvised explosive device on Camp Taji.



U.S. Army photo courtesy of 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt.

Pfc. Kyle Jackson, an artilleryman assigned to Btry. A, 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt., remains vigilant with his .50-caliber machine gun as his patrol halts along the route near Camp Taji.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Biggins

Sgt. Brian Kilough, the senior welder for Co. B, 4th Spt. Bn., welds a bumper for an up-armored Humvee.



U.S. Army photo courtesy of 7th Sqdn., 10 Cav. Regt.

Staff Sgt. David Cox, mortar squad leader, Trp. B, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., with some local children in Saab al Bour.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Spec. Scott Moehl, combat engineer, Co. E, 1st Bn., 66th AR, changes the oil on his Bradley Fighting Vehicle.



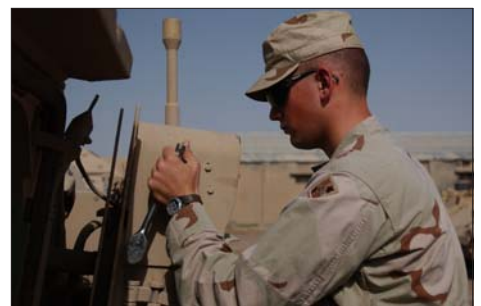
U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Jordan Maxcey

Lt. Col. John Cross commander, 1st STB, salutes Spc. Leighona Genet, a medic with HHC, 1st STB, after receiving an AAM for winning the Soldier of the Month board.



U.S. Army photo courtesy of 1st STB

Soldiers from the 1120th Psyop Det., attached to 1st STB, talk to local civilians and pass out copies of the Baghdad Now newspaper in a market near Taji.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Pfc. Chris Mazerolle, combat engineer, Co. E, 1st Bn., 66th AR, works on his vehicle at the battalion motorpool on Camp Taji.

Ceremony marks Iraqi army standing up

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commander of the 9th IA Div.

“I’ve seen the 9th Iraqi Army (Division) grow in skill, capabilities and confidence into a highly proficient, effective fighting force,” said Thurman. “They have never failed nor wavered in any mission. They have earned the confidence of the Iraqi people. The people of Iraq can be very proud of them.”

Through real-world missions and validation exercises, the 9th IA Div. has demonstrated it is fully capable of taking over complete control of the area of operations from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. As



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Maj. Gen. Mahmoud Bashar, commander, 9th IA Div., salutes Maj. Gen. J.D. Thurman, commanding general of MND-B, during the Iraqis in the Lead ceremony on Camp Taji, June 19. This event marks the 9th IA Div. assuming responsibility for more than 615 square kilometers of area just north of Baghdad from the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

Iraqi Security Forces take the lead in battling terrorist

forces, they pave the way in making sure the national government comes together.

“We are taking control as a division,” said Bashar, “but we are not working alone. We will be working with (Maj.) Gen. Thurman and have support with the brigade as we take more and more control of the area.”

An armor company from the 9th IA Div. currently provides protection to civilians in Baghdad. The division is the second Iraqi division to take the lead in the MND-B area of responsibility.

Bashar said he sees all of his soldiers working

together as “one” to provide for the security of Iraq.

“My soldiers come from all over Iraq and know how to deal with different situations,” the commanding general said. “They can all do the same tasks and have the same feelings towards the Iraqi people. Iraq is first, everything else is second. This is a great day for me and my soldiers – and I think it’s a great day for the new Iraqi army.”

Currently, eight Iraqi army brigades and 23 Iraqi army battalions have assumed the lead throughout MND-B’s area of operations.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Maj. Gen. J.D. Thurman, commanding general of MND-B, speaks to the attendees during the Iraqis in the Lead ceremony, June 19. The ceremony transferred responsibility for a large portion of the northern Baghdad region to the 9th IA Div.